

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: marilyn.shirley@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 2:41 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: testimony re: SB650, HB6848, HB6962

I wish to add my voice to those who support the passage of the above referenced bills. As we celebrate International Women's Day this week, it seems an appropriate time to consider the importance of protecting women from the violence of domestic abuse. It is within your power to pass legislation that addresses this urgent need, and I am writing to encourage you to vote yes on those bills that would prevent those persons under restraining and protective orders from having legal access to firearms before their hearings have taken place. It is clear that this is a very vulnerable time for the women filing these orders against their abusers, many of whom become victims of gun violence before the hearing even takes place.

HB6962, dealing with firearm safety and storage, is also of extreme importance, especially in protecting inquisitive children from access to unsecured firearms found in the home. How many deaths of children have we heard of when they find and play with loaded weapons improperly secured in their homes or homes of playmates? Too many for sure. Please do what you can to encourage safe firearms storage.

I have been very proud of CT for the stance it has taken in favor of sensible gun safety legislation since the Newtown tragedy, and would like us to continue to set the standard for the nation. I realize that the NRA is a powerful and vocal organization, and know that you hear their voices loudly, but I want to encourage you to look further than who is making the most noise in this consideration, and do the right thing for the people of CT. Poll after poll has shown that a large majority of Americans favor sensible gun control measures, and we look to our elected officials to have the courage to stand against extremism and enact sensible measures that protect the public and do not infringe on the ownership of firearms except for those with serious mental illness or criminal backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration of my deeply felt concern for our state and nation as we try to limit the awful carnage brought by uncontrolled access to firearms.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Shirley
Tolland, CT